



EARTHJUSTICE

Because the earth needs a good lawyer

DAILY READING FILE

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January 19, 2011

The Honorable Administrator Lisa Jackson
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Administrator Jackson,

Thank you very much for your leadership in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision to veto the Clean Water Act permit for the Spruce No. 1 Mine. This action honored the Clean Water Act and showed your commitment to following and enforcing the law, using strong science, and protecting Americans from harmful pollution.

In doing this, you saved nearly seven miles of vital streams and more than 2,000 mountain acres in an important part of Appalachia. And even more importantly, you set an historic precedent in the recognition of environmental justice and the safeguarding of communities of people who have not received the full protections of the law in recent years.

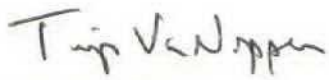
Especially following a period in American history of neglect of science and the basic requirements of this cornerstone law, the Clean Water Act, your leadership and decision on this mine permit exhibited a great amount of integrity, dedication and fortitude.

It is extremely heartening and encouraging to see the commitment of the Obama administration and the EPA turn into meaningful action on the ground — action that people can see and can count on, as the streams and mountain acres they love and have worked to protect for years are finally saved from pollution, explosives, and bulldozers. This is the kind of leadership that will shape your legacy; help preserve our nation's waters, lands, and health for future generations; and bring valuable potential for a sustainable economy, in harmony with the environment, to Appalachia for years to come.

We thank you again for standing steadfast to the principles of environmental protection and environmental justice in this decision, and for not wavering in the face of immense industry pressure. We will do our utmost to support this impressive and well-grounded decision, defend it, and rouse the public in favor of it and your leadership on it. We hope that our support will help fortify you in your commitment to science, the law, and environmental justice. We hope that you continue making your commitment to these principles a reality for the people of Appalachia,

by protecting more streams, more mountains, and more local communities from the irreparable devastation caused by mountaintop removal mining.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Trip Van Noppen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Trip Van Noppen
President, Earthjustice



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